GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2986
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2015
CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ELECTION SURVEY
Mishra Shri Bhairon Prasad

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Code of Conduct prescribed for TV channels to broadcast surveys during elections;

(b) whether the Government proposes to grant permission to telecast exit poll surveys only on the day of election after the polling ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
[COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)]

(a) to (c): Content broadcast on private satellite TV channels is regulated in accordance with the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the Rules framed thereunder.

All programmes/advertisements telecast on such TV channels are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertising Codes provided in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. The Programme and Advertising Codes do not contain any provision to either enable or restrict broadcast of surveys during elections.

However, Election Commission of India has informed that there is no provision for dealing with conduct of "opinion poll" surveys during elections. But the results of such opinion poll surveys cannot be disseminated on electronic media during the period mentioned in Section 126 (1) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. Regarding conduct of surveys for "Exit Polls", Election Commission of India has informed that as per provisions under Section 126A of Representation of the People Act, 1951 there are restrictions on conduct of any exit poll and publication and dissemination of result of such exit poll during the period from commencement of poll and half hour after close of polls. In this regard the Commission issues notification to the effect at every election.